**The Way of the Cross according to St Mark**

**Introduction**

The readings are taken from the Passion translation of the bible

There is a time for asking questions

but there is also a day for decision.

There is a time to discuss who Jesus is,

but there is also a time to take up your cross and follow Him.

There is a time to weigh the issues carefully,

but there are issues which will not wait until tomorrow.

If we wait until we understand everything

we will wait for ever.

If we do not follow the light which we do see,

we will receive no more light.

If we, today, miss this opportunity

then God help us.

**Prayer: RT**

Almighty Father,

look with mercy on this your family

for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed

and given up into the hands of sinners

and to suffer death upon the cross;

who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

All   **Amen.**

**Hymn:** There is a green hill WC

IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE: Mark 14:32-42 (Edwina)

3**2**Then Jesus led his disciples to an orchard called “The Oil Press.” He told them, “Sit here while I pray awhile.” **33**He took Peter, Jacob, and John with him.An intense feeling of great horror plunged his soul into deep sorrow. **34**And he said to them, “My heart is overwhelmed with anguish and crushed with grief. It feels as though I’m dying. Stay here and keep watch with me.”**35**He walked a short distance away, and being overcome with grief, he threw himself face down on the ground. He prayed that if it were possible, he would not have to experience this hour *of suffering*. **36**He prayed, “Abba, my Father, all things are possible for you. Please—remove this cup of suffering! Yet what I want is not important, for I only desire to fulfil your plan for me.”**37**Then he came back to his three disciples and found them all sound asleep. He awakened Peter and said to him, “Simon, are you asleep? Do you lack the strength to stay awake with me for even just an hour? **38**Keep alert and pray that you’ll be spared from this time of testing. For your spirit is eager enough, but your humanity is feeble.”

**39**Then he left them a second time and went to pray the same thing. **40**Afterward, he came back to the disciples and found them sound asleep, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open and they didn’t know what to say to him.**41**After praying for the third time, he returned to his disciples and awoke them again, saying, “Do you plan on sleeping and resting indefinitely? That’s enough sleep! The end has come and the hour has arrivedfor the Son of Man to be handed over to the authority of sinful men. **42**Get up and let’s go. Don’t you see? My betrayer draws near.”

**Chant: Stay here with me, remain here with me; watch and pray VE**

THE BETRAYAL AND ARREST: Mark 14:43-52 . (Barry)

**43**At that moment Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, along with a large crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent to arrest Jesus by order of the ruling priests, the religious scholars, and the Jewish leaders. **44**Now, Judas, the traitor, had arranged to give them a signal that would identify Jesus, for he had told them, “Jesus is the man I will kiss. So arrest him and take him away.” **45**Judas quickly stepped up to Jesus and said, “Rabbi, my teacher!”and he kissed him on both cheeks.

**46**Then the armed men seized Jesus to arrest him. **47**One of the disciplespulled out a sword[ and swung it at the servant of Caiaphas, the high priest, slashing off his ear. **48**Jesus said to the mob, “Why would you arrest me with swords and clubs as though I were an outlaw? **49**Day after day I sat with you in the temple courts, teaching the people, yet you didn’t arrest me then. But all of this fulfils the prophecies of the Scriptures.” **50**At that point all of his disciples ran away and abandoned him.

**51**There was a young man there following Jesus, wearing only a linen sheet wrapped around him. **52**They tried to arrest him also, but he slipped from their grasp and ran off naked, leaving his linen cloth in their hands.

**Hymn: My song is love unknown (v1,3,4,5)** WC +VE

AT THE HIGH PRIEST’S HOUSE: Mark 14:53-65 (Tricia)

**53**Those who arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, to a meeting where the religious scholars and Jewish leaders were assembled. **54**Now, Peter had followed him from a distance all the way to the chief priest’s courtyard. He sat with the guards and was warming himself by the fire.

**55**The chief priests and the Jewish council of leaders were doing their best to find false charges that they could bring against Jesus and condemn him to death, but they could not find any. **56**Many false witnesses came forward, but the evidence could not be corroborated. **57**Some came forward and testified against him, saying, **58**“We heard him say, ‘I can destroy this temple made with hands and then build another one again in three days not made with hands!’ ” **59**Yet even on this point the witnesses did not agree.

**60**Finally, the chief priest stood up in the middle of them and said to Jesus, “Have you nothing to say about these allegations? Is what they’re saying about you true?”

**61**But Jesus remained silent before them and did not answer. So the chief priest said to him, “Are you the anointed Messiah, the Son of the Blessed God?”

**62**Jesus answered him, “I am. And more than that, you are about to see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Almighty and coming in the heavenly clouds!”

**63**Then, as an act of outrage, the high priest tore his robe and shouted, “No more witnesses are needed, **64**for you’ve heard this grievous blasphemy.” Turning to the council he said, “Now, what is your verdict?” “He’s guilty and deserves the death penalty!” they all answered.

**65**Then they spat on his face and blindfolded him. Others struck him over and over with their fists and taunted him by saying, “Prophesy to us! Tell us which one of us is about to hit you next?” And the guards took him and beat him.

**Hymn: Such love (v1)** WC

PETER’S DENIAL: Mark 14: 66-end (Norma/Ray)

**66**Meanwhile, Peter was sitting below in the courtyard when a girl, a servant of the high priest, came near the fire. **67**When she saw Peter there warming himself, she said to him, “I recognize you. You were with that Nazarene, Jesus.” **68**But Peter denied it, saying, “I don’t have a clue what you’re talking about.” Then he went out to the gateway of the courtyard and the cock crowed.

**69**When the servant girl noticed him, she said to all the bystanders, “I know this man is one of his followers!”

**70**Once again, Peter denied it. A short time later, the bystanders said to him, “You must be one of them. You’re a Galilean, like he is, for your accent proves it!” **71**Peter cursed and said, “I tell you, I don’t know this man you’re talking about!”

**72**At the same moment Peter spoke those words, the sound of a cock crowing pierced the night for the second time. And Peter remembered the words Jesus had spoken to him earlier: “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” With his heart shattered, Peter broke down and sobbed with bitter tears.

**Silence**

BEFORE PILATE: Mark 15:1-20. (Ann)

Before dawn that morning, the ruling priests, elders, religious scholars, and the entire Jewish council set in motion their plan against Jesus. They bound him in chains, took him away, and handed him over to Pilate.

**2**As Jesus stood in front of the Roman governor, Pilate asked him, “So, are you really the king of the Jews?”

Jesus answered, “You have just spoken it.”

**3**Then the ruling priests, over and over, made bitter accusations against him, but he remained silent.

**4**So Pilate questioned him again. “Have you nothing to say? Don’t you hear these many allegations they’re making against you?” **5**But Jesus offered no defence to any of the charges, much to the astonishment of Pilate.

**6**Every year at Passover, it was the custom of the governor to pardon a prisoner and release him to the people—anyone they wanted. **7**Now, Pilate was holding in custody a notorious criminal named Barabbas, one of the assassins who had committed murder in an uprising. **8**The crowds gathered in front of Pilate’s judgment bench and asked him to release a prisoner to them, as was his custom. **9**So he asked them, “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” **10**(Pilate was fully aware that the religious leaders had handed Jesus over to him because of spite and envy.)

**11**But the ruling priests stirred up the crowd to incite them to ask for Barabbas instead. **12**So Pilate asked them, “What do you want me to do with this one you call the king of the Jews?”

**13**They all shouted back, “Crucify him!” **14**“Why?” Pilate asked. “What evil thing has he done wrong to deserve that?” But they kept shouting out with a deafening roar, “Crucify him at once!”

**15**Because he wanted to please the people, Pilate released Barabbas to them. After he had Jesus severely beaten with a whip made of leather straps and embedded with metal, he sentenced him to be crucified. **16**The soldiers took Jesus into the headquarters of the governor’s compound and summoned a military unit of nearly six hundred men. **17**They placed a purple robe on him to make fun of him. Then they braided a victor’s crown, a wreath made of thorns,and set it on his head. **18**And with a mock salute they repeatedly cried out, “Hail, your majesty, king of the Jews!” **19**They spit in his face and hit him repeatedly on his head with a reed staff, driving the crown of thorns deep into his brow. They knelt down before him in mockery, pretending to pay him homage. **20**When they finished ridiculing him, they took off the purple robe, put his own clothes back on him, and led him away to be crucified.

**Hymn – The Old Rugged Cross (1 verse and chorus only!)** VE

TO CALVARY: Mark 15: 21-39 . (Derek)

**21**As they came out of the city, they stopped an African man named Simon, a native of Libya. He was passing by, just coming in from the countryside with his two sons, Alexander and Rufus, and the soldiers forced him to carry the heavy crossbeam for Jesus. **22**They brought Jesus to the execution site called Golgotha, which means “Skull Hill.” **23**There they offered him a mild painkiller, a drink of wine mixed with gall, but he refused to drink it.

**24**They nailed his hands and feet to the cross. The soldiers divided his clothing among themselves by rolling diceto see who would win them. **25**It was nine o’clock in the morning when they finally crucified him. **26**Above his head they placed a sign with the inscription of the charge against him, which read, “This is the King of the Jews.”

**27**Two criminals were also crucified with Jesus, one on each side of him. **28**This fulfilled the Scripture that says:

He was considered to be a criminal.

**29**Those who passed by shook their heads and spitefully ridiculed him, saying, “Aha! You boasted that you could destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days. **30**Why don’t you save yourself now? Just come down from the cross!”

**31**Even the ruling priests and the religious scholars joined in the mockery and kept laughing among themselves, saying, “He saved others, but he can’t even save himself! Israel’s king, is he? **32**Let the ‘Messiah,’ the ‘king of Israel,’ pull out the nails and come down from the cross right now. We’ll believe it when we see it!” Even the two criminals who were crucified with Jesus began to taunt him, hurling insults on him.

**33**For three hours, beginning at noon, darkness came over the earth. **34**About three o’clock, Jesus shouted with a mighty voice in Aramaic, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?”—that is, “My God, My God, why have you turned your back on me?”

**35**Some who were standing near the cross misunderstood and said, “Listen! He’s calling for Elijah.” **36**One bystander ran and got a sponge, soaked it with sour wine, then put it on a stick and held it up for Jesus to drink. But the rest said, “Leave him alone! Let’s see if Elijah comes to rescue him.” **37**Just then Jesus passionately cried out with a loud voice and breathed his last. **38**At that moment the veil in the Holy of Holies was torn in two from the top to the bottom.

**39**When the Roman military officer who was standing right in front of Jesus saw how he died, he said, “There is no doubt this man was the Son of God!”

**Chant – O christe domine Jesu** VE

THE AFTERMATH: Mark 15:40-47 . (Mary)

**40–41**Watching from a distance, away from the crowds, were many of the women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and had cared for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Jacob the younger and Joseph, and Salome. Many other women who had followed him to Jerusalem were there too.

**42**Evening was fast approaching, and it was a preparation day before a Sabbath. **43**So a prominent Jewish leader named Joseph, from the village of Ramah, courageously went to see Pilate and begged to have custody of the body of Jesus. Joseph was a highly regarded member of the Jewish council and a follower of Jesus who was eagerly awaiting the kingdom of God. **44**Pilate was amazed to hear that Jesus was already dead, so he summoned the Roman officer, who confirmed it. **45**After it was confirmed, Pilate consented to give the corpse to Joseph.

**46**Joseph purchased a shroud of fine linen and took the body down from the cross. Then he wrapped it in the linen shroud and placed it in a tomb quarried from out of the rock.Then they rolled a large stone over the entrance to seal the tomb. **47**Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph were there and saw exactly where they laid the body of Jesus.

**Intercession for Good Friday** RT +WC

 Let us pray for the Church of God throughout the world:

for unity in faith, in witness and in service,

for bishops and other ministers, and those whom they serve,

for N, our bishop, and the people of this diocese,

for all Christians in this place,

for those to be baptized,

for those who are mocked and persecuted for their faith,

that God will confirm his Church in faith,

increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

All   **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Minister    Let us pray for the nations of the world and their leaders:

for Elizabeth our Queen and the Parliaments of this land,

for those who administer the law and all who serve in public office,

for all who strive for justice and reconciliation,

that by God’s help the world may live in peace and freedom.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

All   **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Minister    Let us pray for God’s ancient people, the Jews,

the first to hear his word:

for greater understanding between Christian and Jew,

for the removal of our blindness and bitterness of heart,

that God will grant us grace to be faithful to his covenant

and to grow in the love of his name.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

All   **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Minister    Let us pray for those who do not believe the gospel of Christ:

for those who have not heard the message of salvation,

for all who have lost faith,

for the contemptuous and scornful,

for those who are enemies of Christ and persecute those who follow him,

for all who deny the faith of Christ crucified,

that God will open their hearts to the truth

and lead them to faith and obedience.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

All   **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Minister    Let us pray for all those who suffer:

for those who are deprived and oppressed,

for all who are sick,

for those in darkness, in doubt and in despair, in loneliness and in fear,

for prisoners, captives and refugees,

for the victims of false accusations and violence,

for all at the point of death and those who watch beside them,

that God in his mercy will sustain them

with the knowledge of his love.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

All   **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Minister    Let us commend ourselves and all God’s children to his unfailing love,

and pray for the grace of a holy life,

that, with all who have died in the peace of Christ,

we may come to the fullness of eternal life

and the joy of the resurrection.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

All   **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Standing at the foot of the cross,

let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All   **Our Father, who art in heaven …**

**Hymn – when I survey the wondrous cross** VE

**Concluding prayer**